

Road 3 LE

Meeteetse, WY 82433

March 22, 2014

Reviewing Officer for  
Thomas Tidwell, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service  
Attn:EMC-Administrative Reviews  
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 1104  
Washington, DC 20250-1104

Dear Sirs;

I would like to make the following objection to the revised final draft of the Shoshone National Forest Plan, specifically the increase in winter and year round motorized access brought forth in alternative G of the final revised plan.

In my 29 year career as a Game Warden with the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., I have had the opportunity to work in some spectacular country, including 17 years in Meeteetse and 6 in Jackson Hole. I can tell you first hand that the quality of wildlife habitat and the diversity of wilderness dependent species of wildlife found in the Wood River/ Francs Peak area is second to none in the lower 48 states. Even world famous Jackson Hole cannot compare. The Francs Peak bighorn sheep herd is the largest in the lower 48 states and alone provides more hunter opportunity than entire states with over 60 licenses. Grizzly bears wander the entire area and their recovery was partially made possible by the high quality habitat found here, especially the army cutworm moth sites found here in the high talus slopes. With the demise of whitebark pine, these sites are critically important to grizzly bears. The Francs Peak area probably has the highest concentration of grizzlies any where south of the salmon streams in Alaska and British Columbia. The area also provides some of the highest quality wilderness elk hunting in the state of Wyoming

To jeopardize these increasingly rare wild attributes in a world where truly wild country becomes smaller every day is unconscionable and I feel it is very short sighted for the Forest Service to diminish the quality of this wildlife habitat and wild country by increasing and encouraging motor vehicle use of any kind in this area. In a perfect world, the Forest Service should recommend the Francs Peak/ Wood River areas as wilderness. If this can't be done it should be managed as non-motorized, back country. There are a lot of other places where ATV's and snow machines can be used with out diminishing wild quality of the habitat. This is not one of them.

A big problem and concern in NW Wyoming right now is the intermingling of cattle and elk and the increased prevalence of brucellosis in cattle. The Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. is currently working hard to prevent this from happening and increased ATV use and the possibility of loop trails in the future under alternative G will increase disturbance to elk and may result with them being displaced to private land where

chances for disease and conflicts will increase. We should be trying to decrease the disturbance to elk and encouraging them to stay in the high country on the forest as long as possible where there is more hunter opportunity and less chance of the transmission of brucellosis from elk to cattle.

In closing, the wild country of the Francs Peak/ Wood River area is too valuable and rare to jeopardize by increasing motorized vehicle use.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

Yours Truly,

H.G. Longobardi